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ABSTRACT

Fall 1988 enrollment data were analyzed to produce a profile of new students at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) in terms of their sex; race; age; residence; enrollment status as full-/part-time, day/evening, or in-state/out-of-state; program; and degree objective. Relevant data on first-time, transfer, and continuing students were obtained from the Student Enrollment Booklets published by the Virginia Community College System. Study findings included the following: (1) 18.7% of the students enrolled at PVCC in fall 1988 were first-time students, 15.8% were transfer students, and 65.5% were returning students; (2) between fall 1987 and fall 1988, student enrollment decreased by 3.7%, including a decrease of 1.3% among first-time students and 3.6% among transfer students; (3) while the proportion of new to returning students remained fairly constant betwen 1984 and 1988, the proportion of first-time to transfer students was affected by a sharp plunge in the number of first-time students between 1984 and 1985 and a concurrent increase in the number of transfer students; (4) the percentage of black first-time students (10.4%) was much higher than that of black transfer students (5.6%); (5) over 30% of the first-time students attended full-time, compared to only 10.1% of the transfer students; and (6) a comparison of PVCC's new student profile with statewide figures on new students revealed that the typical PVCC student was more likely to be female, white, and older. (AAC)

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PVCC NEW STUDENT PROFILE
FALL SEMESTER 1988

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Brief No. 89-2

PVCC Institutional Research Brief

February 1989

PVCC NEW STUDENT PROFILE: FALL 1988

This brief summarizes the major findings of *PVCC New Student Profile: Fall Semester 1988* (PVCC Institutional Research Report No. 2-89, February 1989), a report on new students attending Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) during Fall Semester 1988. Students new to both PVCC and college in general are classified as first-time; student new to PVCC but having one or more credits from other institutions of higher education are classified as transfer; students who have taken classes at PVCC previously are classified as returning.

One-thousand four-hundred fifty new student enrolled at PVCC during Fall Semester 1988. Of these, 786 were first-time students and 664 were transfer students. New students accounted for 34.5% of the total fall semester 1988 headcount. As can be seen in Figure 1, 18.7% of the student headcount consisted of first-time students, 15.8% consisted of transfer students, and 65.5% consisted of returning students.

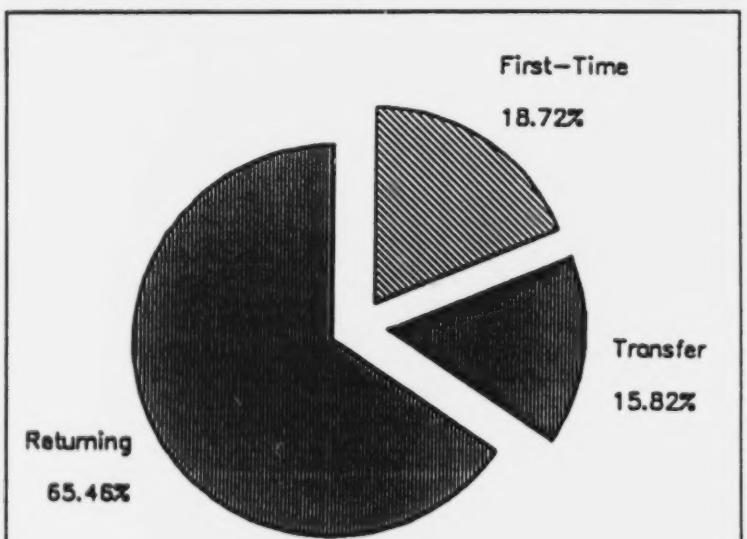

FIGURE 1: PVCC STUDENT HEADCOUNT BY STUDENT STATUS (FALL 1988)

While the proportion of new to returning students has been relatively constant during the past five years, the proportion of first-time to transfer students has not. As can be seen in Figure 2, between fall 1984 and fall 1985, the number of first-time students plunged sharply and the number of transfer students rose steeply. During Fall Quarter 1985, the number of first-time students was the lowest in 11 years, and the number of transfer students was the highest ever. Between Fall Quarter 1985 and Fall Quarter 1987, first-time student enrollment increased by 14.5% and transfer student enrollment has decreased by 1.9%. Between fall 1987 and fall 1988, both first-time and transfer student enrollment

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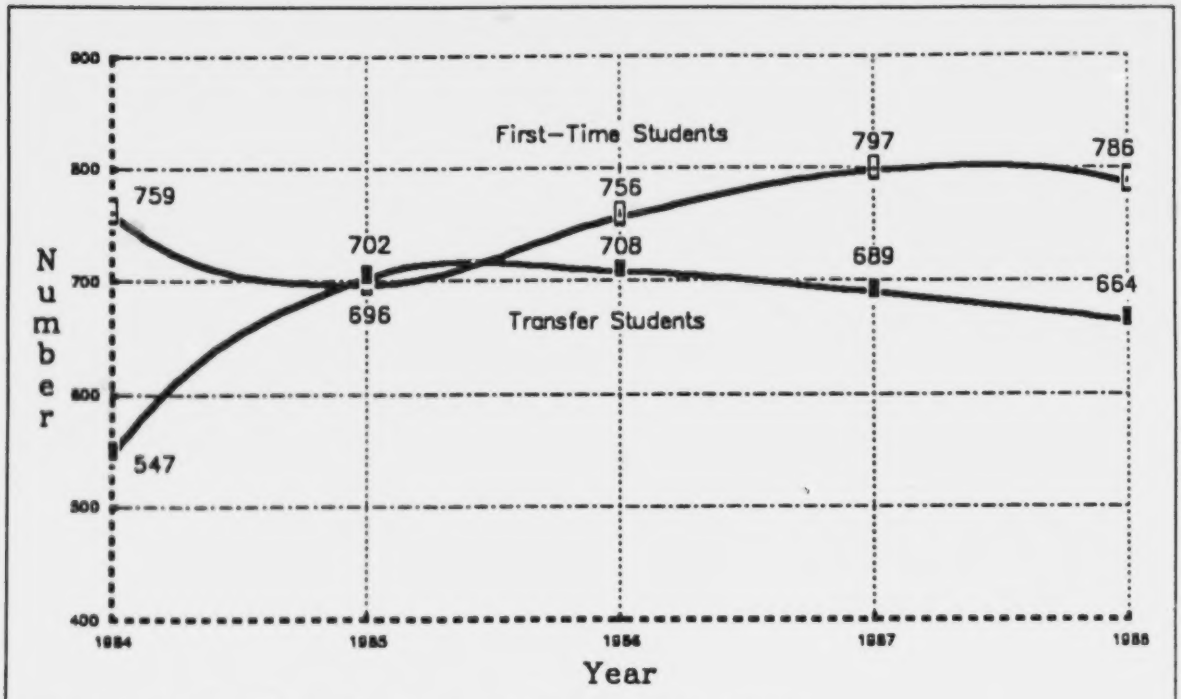

FIGURE 2: PVCC FALL TERM HEADCOUNT (FIRST-TIME STUDENTS/TRANSFER STUDENTS)

decreased, but during the same period overall student enrollment at approximately the same rate.

As has been reported in previous studies, the differences among new students were more pronounced than the differences between new and returning students. First-time students were typically younger than transfer students and more likely to study full-time at PVCC. Proportionally more first-time students studied during the day at the main PVCC campus than did transfer students. A larger percentage of first-time students were enrolled in programs of study leading toward degrees or certificates.

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PVCC NEW STUDENT PROFILE
FALL SEMESTER 1988

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth in a series of annual reports on new students attending Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) during the fall term of a given year. The first report in the series profiled only first-time students; subsequent reports were expanded to include transfer students, as well as first-time students.[1]

The definitions of first-time, transfer, and returning students are those used by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). First-time students are students who have never enrolled in college courses; transfer students are students who have taken one or more college courses but have never enrolled at PVCC; and returning students are students who have previously attended PVCC.

As reported in the earlier studies, a tremendous diversity exists among new students. Some are recent high school graduates attending college for the first time; others are attending college for the first time, but have waited to begin studying until after raising families, or retiring from jobs; still others are college graduates taking one

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[1]See Ronald B. Head, *PVCC First-Time Student Profile: Fall Quarter 1985* (PVCC Institutional Research Report No. 1-86, April 1986); Ronald B. Head, *PVCC New Student Profile: Fall Quarter 1986* (PVCC Institutional Research Report No. 3-87, April 1987); and Ronald B. Head, *PVCC New Student Profile: Fall Quarter 1987* (PVCC Institutional Research Report No. 3-88, March 1988).

or more courses purely for personal satisfaction; and finally, others are college graduates taking courses in order to acquire skills for new jobs or careers.

Because of this diversity, it is important that faculty and administrators understand the characteristics of students attending the college for the first time. If new student expectations differ from faculty perceptions, new students will likely never become returning students. This study offers some perspectives for understanding new PVCC students by providing a longitudinal profile of their demographic and enrollment characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

In terms of methodology, this study is similar to previous studies on new students. The statistical treatment is descriptive, only fall end-of-term figures are used, and data sources are acknowledged at the bottom of each table in the study. For the most part, data were obtained from the Student Enrollment Booklets published electronically each fall by the VCCS.

One word of caution is in order, however. Because of the change from a quarter to an academic calendar in 1988-1989, care should be exercised in comparing 1988 fall enrollment figures to previous fall enrollment figures.

NEW STUDENT HEADCOUNT

One-thousand four-hundred fifty new students enrolled at PVCC during Fall Semester 1988. Of these, 786 were first-time students and 664 were transfer students. New students accounted for 34.5% of the total fall semester 1988 headcount. As can be seen in Figure 1, 18.7% of the student headcount consisted of first-time students, 15.8% consisted of transfer students, and 65.5% consisted of returning students.

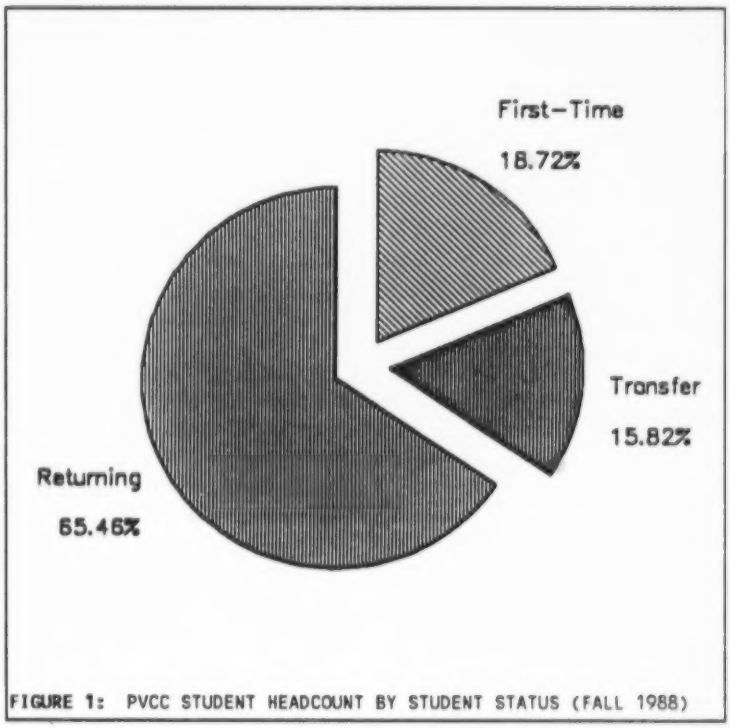

FIGURE 1: PVCC STUDENT HEADCOUNT BY STUDENT STATUS (FALL 1988)

Between fall 1987 and fall 1988, student enrollment at PVCC decreased by 3.7%. First-time student enrollment decreased by 1.3%, and transfer student enrollment decreased by 3.6%. Combining the two categories (first-time and transfer), new student enrollment decreased by 2.4% during this period of time.

Just as the decrease in new students between fall 1987 and fall 1988 was similar to that of all students, during the past five years the enrollment of new students at the college has generally mirrored that of the student body as a whole (see Figure 2). Between fall 1984 and fall 1987, both total student enrollment and new student enroll-

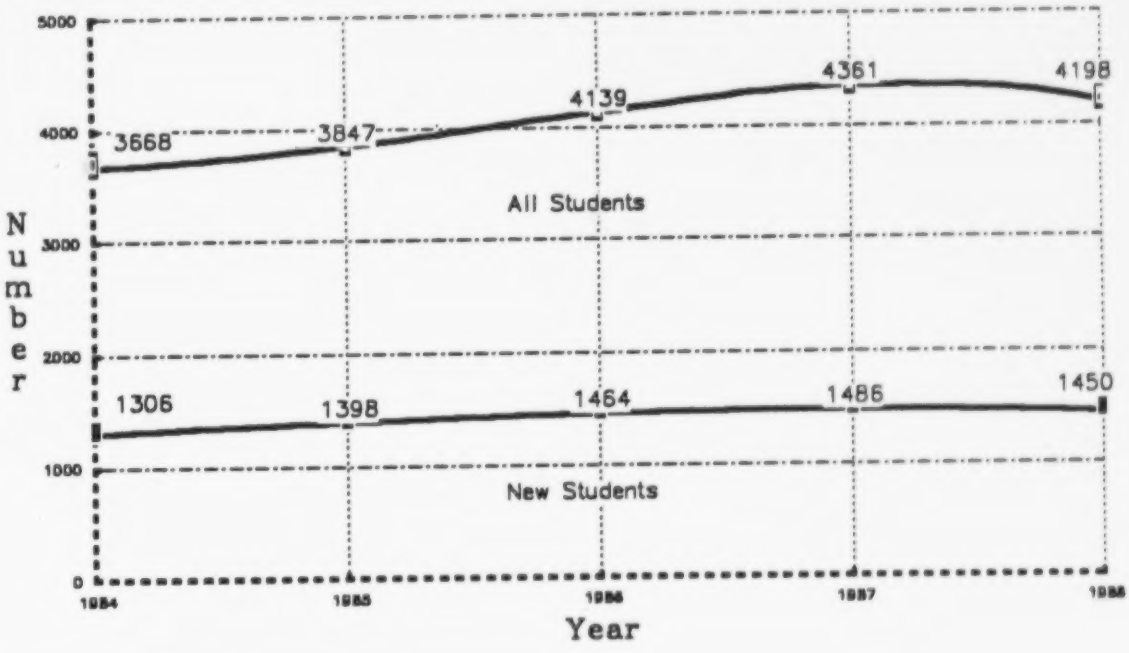

FIGURE 2: PVCC FALL TERM HEADCOUNT (ALL STUDENTS/NEW STUDENTS)

ment increased; between fall 1987 and fall 1988, it decreased.

While the proportion of new to returning students has been relatively constant during the past five years, the proportion of first-time to transfer students has not. As can be seen in Figure 3, between fall 1984 and fall 1985, the number of first-time students plunged sharply and the number of transfer students rose steeply. During Fall Quarter 1985, the number of first-time students was the lowest in eleven years, and the number of transfer students was the highest ever. Between Fall Quarter 1985 and Fall Quarter 1987, however, first-time student enrollment increased by 14.5% and transfer student enrollment decreased by 1.9%. Between fall 1987 and fall 1988, both first-time

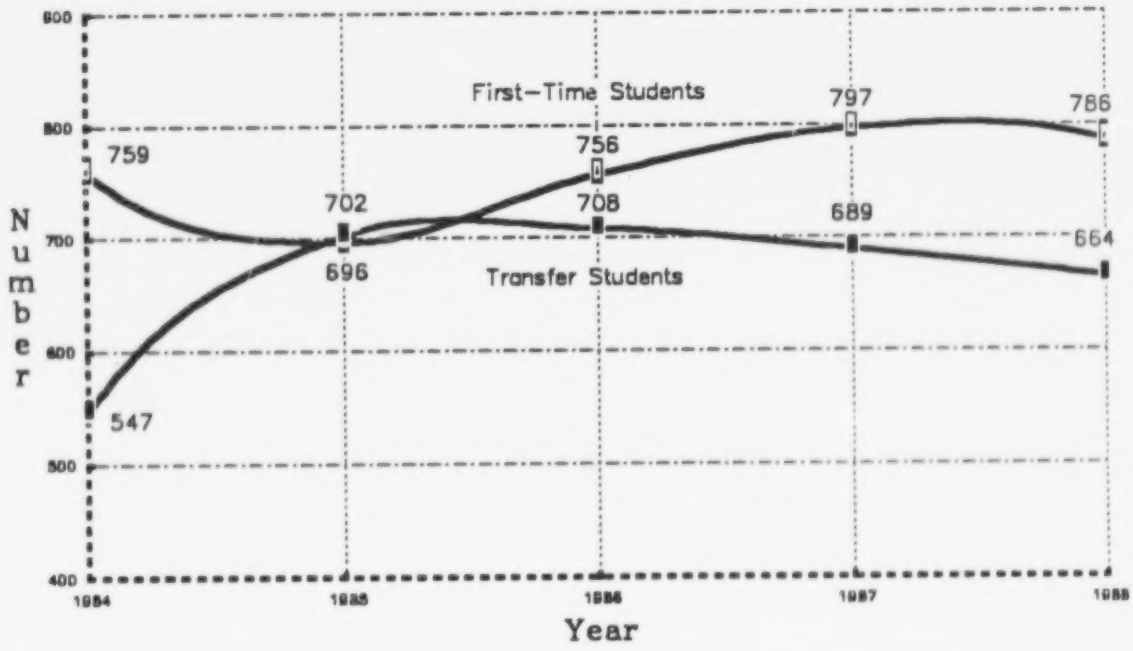

FIGURE 3: PVCC FALL TERM HEADCOUNT (FIRST-TIME STUDENTS/TRANSFER STUDENTS)

and transfer student enrollment decreased, but the gap, or difference, between the two remained about the same.

The increase in transfer students during the early and mid-1980's is probably a reflection of the growth in industry in the Charlottesville area during the period. As has been reported in earlier studies, transfer students are typically older adult students, many of whom have college degrees, and many of whom are taking courses at PVCC to obtain specific job skills. The slight growth in first-time students since fall 1985 is probably a reflection of PVCC's increased recruiting in service region high schools. As was reported in earlier studies, the typical first-time student is a recent high school

graduate, 18 to 21 years of age. PVCC fall term headcount by first-time, transfer, and returning student status between the opening of the college in 1972 and fall 1988 is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: PVCC FALL TERM HEADCOUNT BY TYPE OF STUDENT

Year	First-Time Students No.	Pct.	Transfer Students No.	Pct.	Returning Students No.	Pct.	TOTAL STUDENTS No.	Increase
1972	270	58.4%	180	39.0%	12	2.6%	462	--
1973	469	42.8%	403	36.8%	224	20.4%	1096	137.2%
1974	504	32.8%	466	30.3%	566	36.8%	1536	40.1%
1975	975	48.4%	88	4.4%	953	47.3%	2016	31.3%
1976	881	43.4%	98	4.8%	1049	51.7%	2028	0.6%
1977	1237	47.3%	74	2.8%	1305	49.9%	2616	29.0%
1978	1488	48.3%	79	2.6%	1513	49.1%	3080	17.7%
1979	1366	42.5%	93	2.9%	1752	54.6%	3211	4.3%
1980	1396	39.4%	92	2.6%	2057	58.0%	3545	10.4%
1981	1144	30.8%	355	9.6%	2215	59.6%	3714	4.8%
1982	912	26.7%	269	7.9%	2236	65.4%	3417	-8.0%
1983	1120	29.7%	291	7.7%	2359	62.6%	3770	10.3%
1984	759	20.7%	547	14.9%	2362	64.4%	3668	-2.7%
1985	696	18.1%	702	18.2%	2449	63.7%	3847	4.9%
1986	756	18.3%	708	17.1%	2675	64.6%	4139	7.6%
1987	797	18.3%	689	15.8%	2875	65.9%	4361	5.4%
1988	786	18.7%	664	15.8%	2748	65.5%	4198	-3.7%

SOURCE: VCCS Student Enrollment Booklet, Table 3B. Note that percentages are by row.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW STUDENTS

Demographic characteristics of fall semester 1988 students by student status (first-time, transfer, and returning) are shown in Table 2. Demographic characteristics examined in this study are sex, race, age, and residence.

First-time and transfer students were similar with respect to sex. Slightly over 40% were males and slightly less than 60% were females. Proportionally more new students, however, were male than returning students. Only 33.8% of all returning students were males, while 42.3% of all new students were males.

TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF FALL 1988 PVCC STUDENTS

CATEGORY	First-Time No.	First-Time Pct.	Transfer No.	Transfer Pct.	Returning No.	Returning Pct.	All Students No.	All Students Pct.
SEX								
Male	342	43.5%	272	41.0%	928	33.8%	1542	36.7%
Female	444	56.5%	392	59.0%	1820	66.2%	2656	63.3%
RACE								
White	689	87.7%	611	92.0%	2430	88.4%	3730	88.9%
Black	82	10.4%	37	5.6%	261	9.5%	380	9.1%
Indian	3	0.4%	1	0.2%	3	0.1%	7	0.2%
Asian	6	0.8%	10	1.5%	30	1.1%	46	1.1%
Hispanic	6	0.8%	3	0.5%	16	0.6%	25	0.6%
Other	0	0.0%	2	0.3%	8	0.3%	10	0.2%
AGE								
Under 18	35	4.5%	0	0.0%	4	0.1%	39	0.9%
18-21	396	50.4%	85	12.8%	476	17.3%	957	22.8%
22-24	63	8.0%	105	15.8%	316	11.5%	484	11.5%
25-34	135	17.2%	249	37.5%	991	36.1%	1375	32.8%
35-44	86	10.9%	151	22.7%	611	22.2%	848	20.2%
45-59	63	8.0%	67	10.1%	296	10.8%	426	10.1%
60 & Over	8	1.0%	7	1.1%	54	2.0%	69	1.6%
RESIDENCE								
Albemarle	264	33.6%	254	38.3%	1089	39.6%	1607	38.3%
Buckingham	16	2.0%	6	0.9%	33	1.2%	55	1.3%
Fluvanna	49	6.2%	18	2.7%	149	5.4%	216	5.1%
Greene	58	7.4%	14	2.1%	137	5.0%	209	5.0%
Louisa	58	7.4%	14	2.1%	93	3.4%	165	3.9%
Nelson	35	4.5%	16	2.4%	116	4.2%	167	4.0%
Charlottesville	166	21.1%	191	28.8%	836	30.4%	1193	28.4%
TOTAL IN-DISTRICT	646	82.2%	513	77.3%	2453	89.3%	3612	86.0%
OUT-OF-DISTRICT	118	15.0%	109	16.4%	271	9.9%	498	11.9%
OUT-OF-STATE	22	2.8%	42	6.3%	24	0.9%	88	2.1%
TOTAL	786	18.7%	664	15.8%	2748	65.5%	4198	100.0%

SOURCE: Information on sex, race, and age was taken from the VCCS Student Enrollment Booklet, Tables 11B, 14A, 14B, and 15. Information on residence was taken directly from VCCS student data by means of a Fortran program written by the author. Note that percentages are by column by group except for the last row, which indicates the percentage of students by category in the student body as a whole.

Proportionally more first-time students were black than were either transfer or returning students. The percentage of black first-time students was much higher than that of transfer black students (10.4% as opposed to 5.6%). The percentage of minority students other than black was approximately the same for first-time, transfer, and returning students.

Transfer and returning students tended to be older than first-time students. The mean (or average) age for all students during Fall Semester 1988 was 30; for both transfer

and returning students, the mean age was 31; for first-time students, it was 25. The median (or midpoint) age for all students was 29; for returning students, the median age was 30; for transfer students, it was 29; and for first-time students, it was 20. This difference in age may be due to the fact that a larger number of first-time students tend to be recent high school graduates.

First-time and transfer students were quite similar with respect to their residence. Slightly over 80% of all first-time students, and slightly under 80% of all transfer students, resided within the PVCC service region. Returning students had a much higher rate of residence within the service region (89.3%).

The demographic characteristics of new students have been fairly stable over time (see Table 3). Since the late 1970's, the ratio of males to females has been 2:3 and the ratio of whites to minorities has been nearly 9:1. Between 25% and 30% of all new students have been in the age bracket 25 to 34, and approximately 80% have lived within the college's service region.

TABLE 3: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PVCC FALL TERM NEW STUDENTS

CATEGORY	1984 No.	1984 Pct.	1985 No.	1985 Pct.	1986 No.	1986 Pct.	1987 No.	1987 Pct.	1988 No.	1988 Pct.
SEX										
Male	528	40.4%	557	39.8%	550	37.6%	602	40.5%	614	42.3%
Female	778	59.6%	841	60.2%	914	62.4%	884	59.5%	836	57.7%
RACE										
White	1155	88.4%	1237	88.5%	1279	87.4%	1312	88.3%	1300	89.7%
Black	114	8.7%	138	9.9%	148	10.1%	140	9.4%	119	8.2%
Indian	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	5	0.3%	3	0.2%	4	0.3%
Asian	19	1.5%	16	1.1%	19	1.3%	12	0.8%	16	1.1%
Hispanic	10	0.8%	5	0.4%	11	0.8%	12	0.8%	9	0.6%
Other	6	0.5%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	7	0.5%	2	0.1%
AGE										
Under 18	14	1.1%	27	1.9%	18	1.2%	22	1.5%	35	2.4%
18-21	413	31.6%	399	28.5%	455	31.1%	471	31.7%	481	33.2%
22-24	171	13.1%	164	11.7%	186	12.7%	153	10.3%	168	11.6%
25-34	385	29.5%	399	28.5%	366	25.0%	417	28.1%	384	26.5%
35-44	193	14.8%	245	17.5%	259	17.7%	252	17.0%	237	16.3%
45-59	114	8.7%	148	10.6%	116	7.9%	137	9.2%	130	9.0%
60 & Over	16	1.2%	16	1.1%	64	4.4%	34	2.3%	15	1.0%
RESIDENCE										
Albemarle	491	37.6%	498	35.6%	482	32.9%	548	36.9%	518	35.7%
Buckingham	34	2.6%	44	3.1%	54	3.7%	24	1.6%	22	1.5%
Fluvanna	47	3.6%	74	5.3%	59	4.0%	76	5.1%	67	4.6%
Greene	49	3.8%	62	4.4%	49	3.3%	74	5.0%	72	5.0%
Louisa	75	5.7%	53	3.8%	56	3.8%	85	5.7%	72	5.0%
Nelson	60	4.6%	49	3.5%	45	3.1%	60	4.0%	51	3.5%
Charlottesville	318	24.3%	333	23.8%	502	34.3%	358	24.1%	357	24.6%
IN-DISTRICT	1074	82.2%	1113	79.6%	1247	85.2%	1225	82.4%	1159	79.9%
OUT-OF-DISTRICT	154	11.8%	221	15.8%	152	10.4%	184	12.4%	227	15.7%
OUT-OF-STATE	78	6.0%	64	4.6%	65	4.4%	77	5.2%	64	4.4%
TOTAL	1306	34.6%	1398	38.1%	1464	38.1%	1486	34.1%	1450	33.2%

SOURCE: Information on sex, race, and age was taken from the VCCS Student Enrollment Booklets, Tables 11B, 14A, 14B, and 15. Information on residence was taken directly from VCCS student data by means of a Fortran program written by the author. Note that percentages are by column by group except for the last row, which indicates the percentage of new students within the total student body.

ENROLLMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW STUDENTS

TABLE 4: ENROLLMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF FALL SEMESTER 1988 PVCC STUDENTS

CATEGORY	First-Time No.	First-Time Pct.	Transfer No.	Transfer Pct.	Returning No.	Returning Pct.	All Students No.	All Students Pct.
Full-Time	245	31.2%	67	10.1%	488	17.8%	800	19.1%
Part-Time	541	68.8%	597	89.9%	2260	82.2%	3398	80.9%
Day Student	519	66.0%	330	49.7%	1692	61.6%	2541	60.5%
Evening Student	267	34.0%	334	50.3%	1056	38.4%	1657	39.5%
On-Campus	607	77.2%	504	75.9%	2175	79.1%	3286	78.3%
Off-Campus	179	22.8%	160	24.1%	573	20.9%	912	21.7%
In-State	768	97.7%	626	94.3%	2716	98.8%	4110	97.9%
Out-of-State	18	2.3%	38	5.7%	32	1.2%	88	2.1%
Developmental	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	38	1.4%	40	1.0%
Occup./Technical	102	13.0%	43	6.5%	645	23.5%	790	18.8%
College Transfer	335	42.6%	117	17.6%	1017	37.0%	1469	35.0%
Unclassified	347	44.1%	504	75.9%	1048	38.1%	1899	45.2%
A.A.	106	13.5%	26	3.9%	250	9.1%	382	9.1%
A.S.	229	29.1%	91	13.7%	767	27.9%	1087	25.9%
A.A.S.	93	11.8%	38	5.7%	592	21.5%	723	17.2%
Diploma	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%	5	0.1%
Certificate	9	1.1%	5	0.8%	48	1.7%	62	1.5%
Developmental	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	38	1.4%	40	1.0%
Unclassified	347	44.1%	504	75.9%	1048	38.1%	1899	45.2%
TOTAL	786	18.7%	664	15.8%	2748	65.5%	4198	100.0%

SOURCE: VCCS Student Enrollment Booklet, Tables 4, 6C, 14A, 14B, and 15. Note that percentages are by column for each group except for the last row, which indicates the percentage of each category in the student body as a whole.

Table 4 shows enrollment characteristics of fall semester 1988 PVCC students by student status (first-time, transfer, returning).

One of the major findings of previous studies was that sharper differences in enrollment characteristics existed among new students (first-time and transfer) than between new students and returning students.[2] Table 4 reveals that these same differences still exist.

[2]See, for instance, *PVCC New Student Profile: Fall Quarter 1986*, *Op. cit.*, p. 11, or *PVCC New Student Profile: Fall Quarter 1987*, *Op. Cit.*, p. 12.

A much larger percentage of first-time student were classified as full-time than were either transfer or returning students (see Figure 4). Full-time students were those who took 12 or more credits of course work during the semester. Over 30% of the first-time students were full-time, while only 10.1% of the transfer students were full-time.

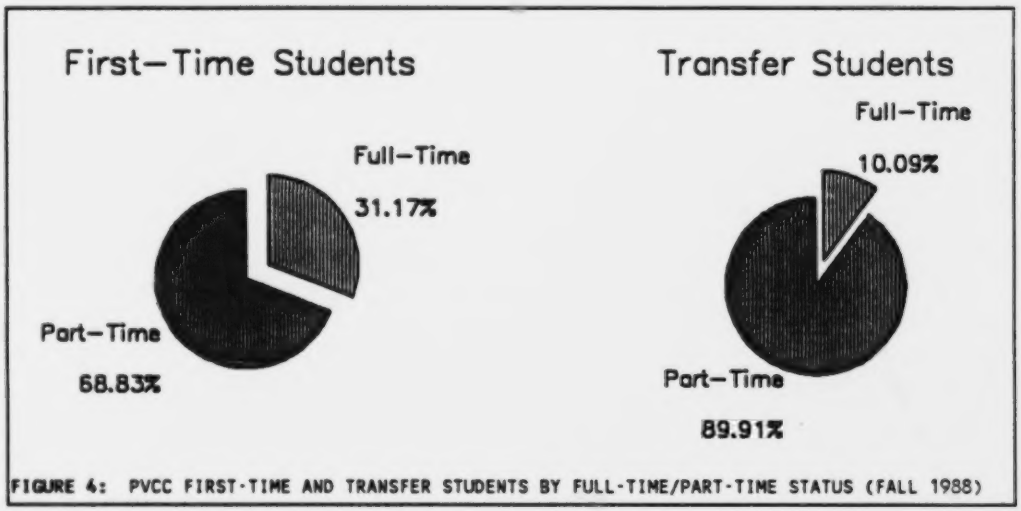

FIGURE 4: PVCC FIRST-TIME AND TRANSFER STUDENTS BY FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STATUS (FALL 1988)

Nearly one-third of all first-time students were classified as evening students; approximately half of all transfer students were evening students. An evening student is any student who takes all of his or her classes after 6:00 p.m. A slightly larger percentage of transfer students studied off-campus than did first-time students, and a slightly larger percentage were classified as out-of-state. Still, with respect to on-/off campus and in-/out-of-state classifications, both first-time and transfer students were similar.

Proportionally, nearly twice as many first-time students as transfer students were enrolled in programs of study leading toward degrees or certificates (see Figure 5).

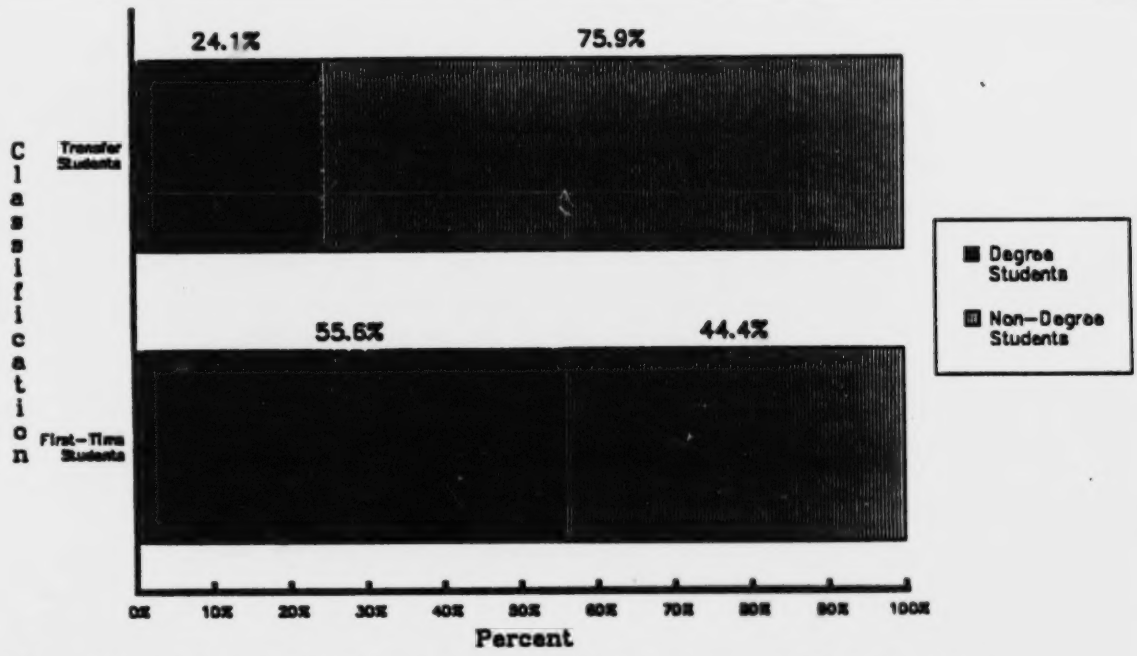

FIGURE 5: PERCENTAGE OF PVCC STUDENTS SEEKING DEGREES BY FIRST-TIME/TRANSFER STATUS (FALL 1988)

Less than half of the first-time students were developmental or unclassified; over three-quarter of the transfer students were developmental or unclassified. Over 40% of the first-time students were enrolled in college transfer programs (those leading toward the Associate of Arts [A.A.] or Associate of Science [A.S.] degrees); 17.6% of the transfer students were enrolled in college transfer programs. Thirteen percent of the first-time students were enrolled in occupational/technical programs as opposed to 6.5% of the transfer students. Occupational/technical programs are those leading toward the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), a certificate, or a diploma.

Enrollment characteristics of new students have been quite stable during the past five years (see Table 5). Between fall 1983 and fall 1984, the percentage of unclassified students did increase sharply, but this was the result of procedural changes in the

general studies program. Table 6 presents new student enrollment by curriculum from fall 1984 through fall 1988.

TABLE 5: ENROLLMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF PVCC FALL TERM NEW STUDENTS

CATEGORY	1984 No.	1984 Pct.	1985 No.	1985 Pct.	1986 No.	1986 Pct.	1987 No.	1987 Pct.	1988 No.	1988 Pct.
Full-Time	262	20.1%	263	18.8%	292	19.9%	354	23.8%	312	21.5%
Part-Time	1044	79.9%	1135	81.2%	1172	80.1%	1132	76.2%	1138	78.5%
Day Student	688	52.7%	807	57.7%	883	60.3%	910	61.2%	849	58.6%
Evening Student	618	47.3%	591	42.3%	581	39.7%	576	38.8%	601	41.4%
On-Campus	964	73.8%	963	68.9%	1081	73.8%	1077	72.5%	1111	76.6%
Off-Campus	342	26.2%	435	31.1%	383	26.2%	409	27.5%	339	23.4%
In-State	1241	95.0%	1340	95.9%	1412	96.4%	1419	95.5%	1394	96.1%
Out-of-State	65	5.0%	58	4.1%	52	3.6%	67	4.5%	56	3.9%
Developmental	89	6.8%	35	2.5%	55	3.8%	19	1.3%	2	0.1%
Occup./Technical	110	8.4%	138	9.9%	142	9.7%	153	10.3%	145	10.0%
College Transfer	273	20.9%	311	22.2%	356	24.3%	457	30.8%	452	31.2%
Unclassified	834	63.9%	914	65.4%	911	62.2%	857	57.7%	851	58.7%
A.A.	40	3.1%	65	4.6%	91	6.2%	124	8.3%	132	9.1%
A.S.	233	17.8%	246	17.6%	265	18.1%	333	22.4%	320	22.1%
A.A.S.	101	7.7%	117	8.4%	119	8.1%	144	9.7%	131	9.0%
Diploma	2	0.2%	5	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Certificate	7	0.5%	16	1.1%	23	1.6%	9	0.6%	14	1.0%
Developmental	89	6.8%	35	2.5%	55	3.8%	19	1.3%	2	0.1%
Unclassified	834	63.9%	914	65.4%	911	62.2%	857	57.7%	851	58.7%
TOTAL	1306	38.2%	1398	37.1%	1464	39.9%	1486	38.6%	1450	33.2%

SOURCE: VCCS Student Enrollment Booklet, Tables 4, 6C, 14A, 14B, and 15.
Note that percentages are by column by group except for the last row, which indicates the percentage of new students in the student body as a whole.

TABLE 6: PVCC FALL TERM NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY CURRICULUM

CATEGORY	1984 No.	1984 Pct.	1985 No.	1985 Pct.	1986 No.	1986 Pct.	1987 No.	1987 Pct.	1988 No.	1988 Pct.
Business Admin.	51	13.3%	75	16.7%	74	14.9%	94	15.4%	117	19.6%
Education	9	2.3%	19	4.2%	19	3.8%	14	2.3%	22	3.7%
Fine Arts	6	1.6%	4	0.9%	14	2.8%	10	1.6%	17	2.8%
General Studies	125	32.6%	113	25.2%	143	28.7%	186	30.5%	150	25.1%
Liberal Arts	34	8.9%	61	13.6%	77	15.5%	114	18.7%	115	19.3%
Science	48	12.5%	39	8.7%	29	5.8%	39	6.4%	31	5.2%
AA/AS TOTAL	273	71.3%	311	69.3%	356	71.5%	457	74.9%	452	75.7%
Accounting	13	3.4%	7	1.6%	18	3.6%	15	2.5%	12	2.0%
Computer Info.	0	0.0%	33	7.3%	19	3.8%	21	3.4%	33	5.5%
Data Processing	27	7.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Draft & Design	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	1.2%	11	1.8%	3	0.5%
Electronics	11	2.9%	22	4.9%	19	3.8%	14	2.3%	18	3.0%
Management	21	5.5%	27	6.0%	23	4.6%	29	4.8%	27	4.5%
Marketing	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	9	1.5%	5	0.8%
Merchandising	2	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Nursing	4	1.0%	3	0.7%	2	0.4%	11	1.8%	5	0.8%
Office Systems	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	1.2%
Police Science	12	3.1%	11	2.4%	12	2.4%	11	1.8%	17	2.8%
Resp. Therapy	5	1.3%	3	0.7%	8	1.6%	8	1.3%	4	0.7%
Science Lab.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%
Sec. Science	6	1.6%	10	2.2%	11	2.2%	13	2.1%	0	0.0%
AAS TOTAL	101	26.4%	117	26.1%	119	23.9%	144	23.6%	131	21.9%
Arts/Crafts	1	0.3%	1	0.2%	2	0.4%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Bus. Ind. Super.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Career Studies	2	0.5%	12	2.7%	14	2.8%	4	0.7%	8	1.3%
Child Care	2	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clerical Studies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Drafting	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	3	0.5%
Draft Design	2	0.5%	5	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Elec./Electr.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Electronic Svc.	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	2	0.4%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%
Health Tech.	2	0.5%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%
Law Enforcement	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.6%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%
DIP/CERT TOTAL	9	2.3%	21	4.7%	23	4.6%	9	1.5%	14	2.3%
TOTAL	383	11.2%	449	11.9%	498	13.6%	610	15.9%	597	13.7%

SOURCE: VCCS Student Enrollment Booklet, Table 6C. Note that percentages are by column except for the last row, which shows the percentage of new, degree-seeking students with the total student body.

PVCC AND VCCS NEW STUDENTS

Table 7 presents a comparison between fall semester 1988 new students from PVCC and from the VCCS by selected demographic and enrollment characteristics. Please note that the two categories, PVCC and VCCS, are exclusive--PVCC data have been removed from VCCS data.

TABLE 7: A COMPARISON BETWEEN PVCC NEW STUDENTS AND OTHER VCCS NEW STUDENTS BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND ENROLLMENT CHARACTERISTICS (FALL 1988)

CATEGORY	PVCC	VCCS
Male	42.3%	44.2%
Female	57.7%	55.8%
White	89.7%	81.7%
Black	8.2%	12.8%
Indian	0.3%	0.3%
Asian	1.1%	2.8%
Hispanic	0.6%	1.5%
Other	0.1%	0.9%
Under 18	2.4%	4.3%
18-21	33.2%	39.5%
22-24	11.6%	9.7%
25-34	26.5%	23.8%
35-44	16.3%	14.3%
45-59	9.0%	7.4%
60 & Over	1.0%	1.0%
Full-Time	21.5%	28.8%
Part-Time	78.5%	71.2%
Day Student	58.6%	68.2%
Evening Student	41.4%	31.8%
On-Campus	76.6%	87.2%
Off-Campus	23.4%	12.8%

CATEGORY	PVCC	VCCS
In-State	96.1%	91.9%
Out-of-State	3.9%	8.1%
Developmental	0.1%	1.7%
Occup./Technical	10.0%	22.9%
College Transfer	31.2%	17.4%
Unclassified	58.7%	58.0%
A.A.	9.1%	1.9%
A.S.	22.1%	15.5%
A.A.S.	9.0%	15.0%
Diploma	0.0%	0.5%
Certificate	1.0%	7.3%
Developmental	0.1%	1.7%
Unclassified	58.7%	58.0%
No Major	58.8%	57.3%
Health	0.7%	1.1%
Business	14.4%	19.1%
Agriculture	--	0.2%
Public Service	1.2%	2.0%
Fine Arts	1.2%	0.9%
Liberal Arts/Educ	19.8%	9.6%
Science	2.1%	2.9%
Engr/Industr	1.7%	4.4%

SOURCE: VCCS Student Enrollment Booklet, Tables 4, 5, 11B, 14A, and 14B. Note that the two categories, PVCC and VCCS, are exclusive--PVCC data have been removed from VCCS data.

As has been the case during the past several years, the typical PVCC new student was more likely to be female than the typical VCCS new student. Perhaps the reason for this is that PVCC offers a number of programs, such as nursing and respiratory therapy, which traditionally appeal to women. The typical VCCS new student was less likely to be white than

the typical PVCC new student. Nearly 20% of all VCCS students were non-white, while nearly 12% of all PVCC students were non-white. The typical VCCS new student was also more likely to be younger than the typical PVCC new student.

Larger percentages of VCCS new students than PVCC new students were classified as full-time, day, and on-campus. One reason for this might be that proportionally more VCCS students were first-time than were PVCC new students. Over three-fourths of all new VCCS students were first-time (76.5%); over one-half of all new PVCC students were first-time (54.2%). First-time students typically study full-time at the main campus during the day.

With respect to program enrollment, approximately the same percentage of VCCS and PVCC new students were unclassified (58% for the VCCS; 58.7% for PVCC). A larger percentage of VCCS new students were enrolled in occupational/technical programs (22.9% for the VCCS; 10% for PVCC) and a smaller percentage in college transfer programs (17.4% for the VCCS; 31.2% for PVCC).

In terms of major curriculum, a larger percentage of new VCCS students studied business than did new PVCC students (19.1% for the VCCS; 14.4% for PVCC), and a smaller percentage studied liberal arts and education (9.6% for the VCCS; 19.1% for PVCC).

CONCLUSIONS

The findings in this study were quite similar to those in previous studies. Once again, the differences among new students were more pronounced than the differences between new and returning students. First-time students were typically younger than transfer students and more likely to study full-time at PVCC. Proportionally more first-time students studied during the day at the main PVCC campus than did transfer students. A larger percentage of first-time students were enrolled in programs of study leading toward degrees or certificates.

In summary, first-time students are closer to the common perception of college students (recent high school graduates, 18 to 22 years of age, studying full-time) than are college transfer students. College transfer students are a more diverse group, attending PVCC for a wide variety of reasons.

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